

DDI-812-70

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20 March 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA COINS Subsystem Manager

SUBJECT: COINS Request for the AEGIS Subject/Area Index File

REFERENCE: COINS/077-70, 26 February 1970

1. The following is in response to your request and the reference request for a subset of the Central Reference Service (CRS) document indexing file (AEGIS) for COINS.

2. On line subsets of this file (finished intelligence and Communist China index records) were recently tested within CRS. The conclusion of this test was that retrieval from the AEGIS index system should be performed by individuals who have had some training in AEGIS indexing and retrieval techniques. It was further concluded that the finished intelligence portion of the index required the least amount of training.

3. This office has no objection to making the TOP SECRET SI index to finished intelligence available to COINS on a trial basis. Sixty to ninety days will be required to prepare instructional materials and to brief COINS personnel and potential users on retrieval techniques. I strongly recommend that one or two individuals in each of the COINS participating agencies spend 2-3 days in training in one of our indexing units. These individuals would then act as the focal point in their respective agencies for assisting users. This office will also provide telephonic and briefing assistance as required.

4. If the finished intelligence file proves useful to COINS participants, this office would be agreeable to releasing other portions of the AEGIS index to COINS, e.g., the index to documents on Communist

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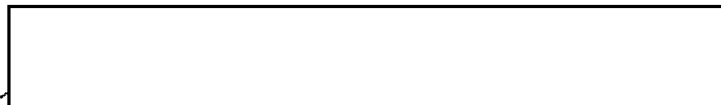
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China. However, the entire AEGIS file of almost a million records, growing at the rate of 350,000 new records a year, is currently too large for on line access using available software.

5. CIA does not have sufficient resources to extend the service on document retrieval and reproduction beyond that which now prevails. A caveat should be included in the output of AEGIS/COINS queries directing users to request document retrieval from user agency repositories.

6. It is my understanding that discussions are under way to increase CIA's participation in COINS to eight hours a day. Increased participation may result in transferring CIA COINS files from the IBM 360/67 computer to another machine. Please negotiate the addition of the finished intelligence file to COINS with the Office of Computer Services, either on the 360/67 or on an alternative computer if the transfer of the COINS system is imminent. This office will want to perform further on line testing and familiarization before making the file available to other COINS participants. I have initiated the preparation of training materials for the COINS community.



JOHN K. VANCE
Director, Central Reference Service

CONCUR:



EDWARD W. PROCTOR
Assistant Deputy Director for Intelligence

20 MAR 1970

Date

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